THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing the following Schemes/Programmes for capacity building, and empowerment of Panchayati Raj representatives:

(i) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) to assist the States and Union Territories for training to elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) so that they can effectively perform the functions and schemes entrusted to them. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to State Governments and NGOs for the following:

- Provision of training infrastructure, such as establishment of distance learning facilities through satellite (SATCOM) and receiving stations.
- Supporting actual training of elected representatives and officials of PRIs.

The financial assistance to State Governments is provided on 75:25 basis under the scheme. In case of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the central assistance is 100% in deserving cases and such proposals are processed only after the recommendations of the State Government concerned are received.

(ii) Under the capacity building component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, funds are allocated to States at the rate of Rs. 1 crore per BRGF district, for the purpose of undertaking the capacity building of elected Panchayat representatives, officials and other stakeholders in BRGF district. The State Governments are required to designate nodal authority(ies) for planning and implementation of the capacity building plans. The Ministry releases the funds to the State Governments against their capacity building plans. The capacity building plans of different States proposed for creation of training infrastructure, *e.g.*, modernisation of the training institutes, provision of computers, satellites studios, etc. and conducting various training courses for the elected and non-elected functionaries of Panchayats and other items.

(iii) Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA), *inter alia*, provides for training/sensitization programme for multi-termer Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) and Elected Young Representatives (EYRs).

(b) and (c) As per the Constitutional mandate in Part IX of the Constitution, States are competent to legislate in this matter.

Financial power of Zilla Parishad

†1150. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Zilla Panchayats have been constituted in all the districts of the country in pursuance of the provision of three-tier Panchayati Raj system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also named as Zilla Parishad in some parts of the country;

(c) whether the method of constituting Zilla Panchayat or Zilla Parishad is same in all the States;

(d) the financial powers available with these bodies; and

(e) the measures to be taken by Government to bring parity amongst Zilla Panchayats and Parishads in the country and to delegate more financial power to them?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) District level Panchayats, also called Zilla Panchayats or Zilla Parishads, are mandated across the country where Part-IX of the Constitution applies. Details of constitution of District level Panchayats are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Articles 243B and 243C of Part-IX of the Constitution lay down some basic provisions such as mode of elections and reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women which are mandatory in all parts of the country where Part-IX applies. The issue of reservation for Backward Class of citizens in Panchayats is decided by the States as mandated in the Constitution.

(d) and (e) Financial powers assigned to the district level Panchayats vary from State to State. In some States, district level Panchayats have been given powers to impose taxes and fees while in others, they have been given powers to accord administrative sanction to expenditure within prescribed limits. Devolution of financial powers to Panchayats vests with the States. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the States for enhancing the financial powers and resource base of Panchayats.

Statement

Constitution of district level Panchayats in various States of the country

Latest Status in respect of number of district level Panchayats in States/UTs

Sl. No.	State	District Level Panchayat Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	38
5.	Chhattisgarh	16
6.	Goa*	2
7.	Gujarat	25

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12
10.	Jharkhand**	22
11.	Jammu and Kashmir***	
12.	Karnataka	29
13.	Kerala	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48
15.	Maharashtra	33
16.	Manipur	4
17.	Orissa	30
18.	Punjab	20
19.	Rajasthan	32
20.	Sikkim	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	28
22.	Tripura	4
23.	Uttar Pradesh	70
24.	Uttrakhand	13
25.	West Bengal	18
Union Territories		
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
27.	Chandigarh	1
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	1
29.	Daman and Diu*	1
30.	Lakshadweep*	1
31.	Puducherry*	1
	TOTAL	543

*Two Tier Panchayati Raj System.

**Jharkhand elections have not been held.

***Jammu and Kashmir elections have not been held after adoption of the Panchayat Act.